

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

The Office Action indicated an objection to the title. The title has been amended from “Signal Processing Method and Video Signal Processor” to “Signal Processing Method and Video Signal Processor for Detecting and Analyzing a Pattern Reflecting the Semantics of the Content of a Signal.” Applicants have made such change and therefore respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

The Office Action indicated an objection to claims 1-13 due to informalities. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 8 as recommended by the Examiner, obviating this matter and, therefore, respectfully request that the objection to claims 1-13 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,774,917 to Foote, et al.

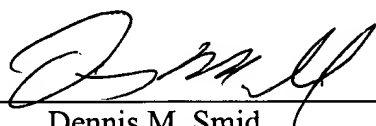
Applicants submit that this rejection can be overcome by submitting a verified English translation of Japanese priority application 11-023064, the application from which the instant application is entitled to the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119. The present application is entitled to the Japanese priority filing date of January 29, 1999. This priority date antedates the March 11, 1999 U.S. filing date to which U.S. Patent No. 6,774,917 to Foote et al. (hereinafter "Foote") is entitled. Enclosed herewith is a verified English translation of Japanese priority application 11-023064, from which it will be seen that claims 1-13 are fully supported. In view of the earlier effective filing date of the present application, Foote is not available as prior art with respect hereto. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that this reference be removed and that the rejection of the claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

Furthermore, although Applicants have asserted that Foote is not an effective reference against the present application, such assertion is not a representation concerning distinctions and/or similarities between the present invention and Foote. Applicants reserve their right to traverse any further rejection that may be presented on a similar document and having an earlier effective date.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our
Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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